

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1887

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 5022

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW

SUBJECT: FRG REPRESENTATIVE GAUS AGAIN APPEALS TO GDR AUTHORITIES
OVER EXPULSION OF SPIEGEL REPORTER

REF: BERLIN 6929

1. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, FEDERAL REPUBLIC
REPRESENTATIVE GUNTER GAUS, MADE A THIRD PROTEST JANUARY 5
TO THE GDR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OVER THE EXPULSION
OF SPIEGEL CORRESPONDENT METTKE. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
REPORTED THE APPEAL WAS MADE TO GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
KURT NIER WHO "FORCEFULLY REJECTED" GAUS' PROTEST. NIER
APPARENTLY REITERATED THE GDR DECISION THAT METTKE HAD
"GROSSLY SLANDERED" THE GDR AND HAD, THEREFORE, VIOLATED
HOST COUNTRY CONDITIONS OF THIS ASSIGNMENT.

2. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE REPORTED ON JANUARY 7 THAT
GAUS' PROTEST INVOLVED DELIVERY OF A DIPLOMATIC NOTE WHICH
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POINTED OUT NOT ONLY THE LEGAL POSITION OF THE FRG IN THIS SITUATION BUT ALSO REFERRED TO THE POLITICAL EFFECTS WHICH METTKE'S EXPULSION MIGHT HAVE. THE NOTE REPORTEDLY STATES THAT THE EXPULSION OF METTKE WAS CONSISTENT NEITHER WITH THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI NOR WITH FRG-GDR AGREEMENTS.

3. THE LATEST ISSUE OF SPIEGEL DATED JANUARY 5 CARRIES NO REPORTS OR ARTICLES ON THE "FORCED ADOPTION" SITUATION. THE PREVIOUS EDITION DATED DECEMBER 29, 1975, HOWEVER, CARRIED A HALF-PAGE REPORT WHICH CONCLUDES THAT THERE IS SOME HOPE THAT GDR AUTHORITIES WILL REVIEW THE ADOPTION CASES RAISED IN PREVIOUS SPIEGEL ARTICLES. THE REOPENING OF CONSIDERATION OF THESE CASES IS SAID TO BE THE RESULT OF AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN GDR LAWYER WOLFGANG VOGEL AND WEST BERLIN BISHOP KURT SCHAFT. THIS SPIEGEL ARTICLE ALSO CARRIES A STATEMENT BY FRG MINISTER FOR INTER-GERMAN AFFAIRS, EGON FRANKE, WHICH IN EFFECT SAYS THAT FRG AUTHORITIES ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY CASES OF "FORCED ADOPTION" IN THE GDR.

4. COMMENT: THE SPIEGEL APPEARS TO HAVE PUT ITS COVERAGE OF "FORCED ADOPTION" IN LIMBO, WHILE EFFORTS IN UNOFFICIAL CHANNELS ARE BEING TRIED. IT ALSO SEEMS THAT METTKE MAY FACE AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF EXPULSION FROM THE GDR FOR RAISING THE "FORCED ADOPTION" CHARGE A FEW WEEKS AGO. COOPER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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